

PRESS RELEASE



The Cleveland Museum of Art

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May 21, 1984

THE 1984 MAY SHOW
May 23 - July 1, 1984

FOR RELEASE AFTER 12:00 NOON
MONDAY, MAY 21, 1984

The Cleveland Museum of Art's 65th annual May Show of works by artists of Ohio's Western Reserve opens May 23, remaining on view through July 1, 1984. On exhibit in the 1984 May Show are 223 works by 202 artists; they were selected from 2,672 entries submitted by 1,472 artists. Nine artists won awards; works by sixteen others were cited by jurors for special mention. Added to the annual \$1000 awards for painting, sculpture, graphics, and crafts was a \$500 award for ceramics, endowed by Clevelander Robert Mann.

Edwin Mieczkowski, well-known artist and professor of painting and drawing at The Cleveland Institute of Art, received the \$1000 painting award for a large-scale colorfully painted construction, Arroyo Dolores. Visitors to previous May Shows and to the many galleries in Ohio and New York where Mr. Mieczkowski's work has been exhibited over the past two decades have had an opportunity to observe the development of his work from the early intricately patterned geometric paintings to the recent multi-layered constructions. Mr. Mieczkowski has received awards in two previous May Shows, \$1000 for painting in 1974, and \$1000 for graphics in 1975.

The \$1000 award for sculpture went to Paula Dubaniewicz for her monumental three-piece ceramic environment, entitled Small Mall. Ms. Dubaniewicz earned her bachelor of fine arts degree in ceramics from The Cleveland Institute of Art in 1978. Her environmental sculptures constructed of handmade colored tiles have been shown in a number of exhibitions in Ohio and adjoining states.

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Every May Show since 1978 has included her work, which was also represented in the exhibition, The Cleveland Institute of Art: 100 Years, on view at The Cleveland Museum of Art in January, 1983.

For the eighth consecutive year, the \$1000 award for graphics was split between two artists. Judith Pittenger-Meyer received \$500 for a large four-part, complicated, and humorous drawing entitled Trout Chow. Ms. Pittenger-Meyer, who holds a master of fine arts degree from the University of Illinois, is a lecturer in painting and drawing at the University of Akron. She has exhibited widely, receiving a number of awards for her work, including a \$500 award for graphics in the 1982 May Show.

The other half of the graphics prize went to Penny Rakoff for a strikingly colored photograph of a night scene, From the "Colored Pleasure" Series: Green Tree. Ms. Rakoff, who received her M.F.A. from Rochester Institute of Technology, is assistant professor of art and coordinator of the photography program at the University of Akron. She has exhibited her photographs throughout the country and in the 1980 and 1981 May Shows.

The \$1000 award for crafts was also split between two artists this year. Edward S. Wohl, a native of Cleveland who now has a woodworking studio in Ridgeway, Wisconsin, received \$500 for a superbly designed and crafted cedar chest. Mr. Wohl exhibited two works in the 1983 May Show; his entry in the 1982 May Show, a finely crafted cherry wood cradle, received the Horace E. Potter Memorial Award for Excellence in Craftsmanship.

Roberta Williamson received \$500 for a set of unusual charm necklaces combining stones, glass, ivory, and coral with whimsical sterling silver "charms" of hands, dogs, alligators, and other objects. Mrs. Williamson, a Berea metalsmith who also lectures in the department of art at Baldwin-

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Wallace College, has shown her work in numerous regional and national exhibitions of crafts and in almost every May Show since 1976, when her entry received the \$1000 award for crafts.

The new \$500 prize for ceramics was awarded to Kent artist Cristina Carver for two skillfully crafted ceramic pieces entitled Sequences and Koan, reminiscent of natural or organic forms with unexpected textures. Ms. Carver, who comes from Kalamazoo, Michigan, obtained her B.F.A. in ceramics from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1980 and is currently studying at Kent State University. Although this is her first May Show, she has shown her work in a number of exhibitions, mainly in Michigan.

The Horace E. Potter Memorial Award for Excellence in Craftsmanship went to John and Rene Kunz for two large and handsomely designed baskets woven of grapevine and dyed reeds. The Akron couple, who are interior designers and first-time May Show entrants, bring a modern approach to a traditional American craft.

Six artists received special mentions for painting: Richard Andres, Daniel A. DiPaolo, Ruth Ava Lyons, Edouard Nammour, Leslie Nichol, and William A. Williamson; and two artists, Joe Fruce and Mark Salva, received special mentions for sculpture. Special mentions for graphics went to Kendra Kostiha, Susan Sipos, and T. P. Speer, and special mentions for photography to Garie Crawford, Lisa Klausner, Patricia L. Magee, Bill Pappas, and Anne Whitaker.

Works in the May Show were selected by members of the Museum's professional staff and two outside jurors. Linda Shearer, director of Artists Space, New York City, served on the jury for painting, sculpture, graphics, and photography. Darrell Sewell, curator of American art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, assisted in judging the craft entries. Tom E. Hinson, the Cleveland Museum's curator of contemporary art, served as coordinator of the May Show.

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In his introduction to the Museum's 1984 May Bulletin, which serves as a catalogue to the May Show, chief curator of modern art Edward B. Henning reflects upon the character of the 1984 exhibition and the process by which jurors evaluated entries. He points out that the 1984 May Show presents a variety of artistic styles, some associated with this region, many others reflective of national and international trends, and that it contains a larger than usual number of works which "assault traditional barriers and explore new means of expression." Almost a quarter of the works this year are paintings, and sculpture is stronger than in previous years. Photography also continues to be impressive; this year more color prints were submitted than ever before. And while crafts are not as numerous as usual, he feels that the quality is exceptionally good.

The May Show can be viewed every day except Monday, when the Museum is closed. The May Show galleries will be open Friday evenings until 10 pm throughout the exhibition. All galleries in the Museum are open on Wednesday evenings until 10 pm.

Gallery talks on the May Show will be given at 1:15 pm on Wednesday, May 23, and Sunday, May 27, and for the hearing impaired at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, June 5, by John Moore, assistant curator in the Museum's Department of Art History and Education. A slide tape, 1984 May Show, will be shown in the Museum's audio-visual center while the exhibition is on view. Museum visitors interested in learning more about how the work of area artists fits into national trends may wish to attend a free lecture series on Contemporary American Art. Given by Mr. Moore, the series will be held at the Museum on the four Wednesdays in June at 5:45 pm, beginning on June 6.

The 1984 May Show is assisted by a grant from the Ohio Arts Council.